



Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue ♦ San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 ♦ Fax 415-865-4205 ♦ TDD 415-865-4272

RONALD M. GEORGE
Chief Justice of California
Chair of the Judicial Council

WILLIAM C. VICKREY
Administrative Director of the Courts

March 25, 2003

RONALD G. OVERHOLT
Chief Deputy Director

Dear CJAC Participants:

I want to thank you for your participation in the 2003 California Judicial Administration Conference. We are employing a variety of follow-up measures to ensure that the conversation begun at CJAC continues. Discussions about the evolution of the judicial branch will always be an important part of leadership responsibilities, but they are even more vital in this time of change and budget shortfall.

The CJAC Oversight Committee is to be commended for its foresight in choosing judicial branch governance as the theme for this conference. In their initial conversations about a theme, committee members understood that a conversation about branchwide governance would involve some difficult issues. Yet they felt that the theme was timely and necessary. In addition, committee members understood that presenting branchwide governance goals could be controversial. Yet they asked the Chief Justice and me to generate goals to serve as starting points for your discussion. Oversight Committee members embraced the challenge of dealing with these difficult issues.

We also commend the Content Committee for orchestrating an opportunity for open, honest dialog among the leadership of the judicial branch about the theme of branchwide governance. Committee members provided all of us with a unique opportunity by balancing time for presentation of information with time for reactions and discussions about how that information is relevant to the judicial branch in California.

The candor of the discussions at CJAC highlighted several areas in which we need to continue to work to build trust and to effectively move the judicial branch into the future. As a part of the follow-up process from the conference, I plan to establish workgroups to discuss many of the concerns you identified and to assist in determining how best to address or resolve them. Workgroups will comprise members of the

CJAC Participants

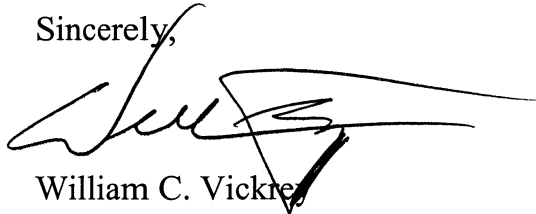
March 25, 2003

Page 2

executive management team of the Administrative Office of the Courts, presiding judges, and court executive officers. The recommendations of these workgroups will assist all of us in enhancing our working relationships.

As the public continues to expect enhanced services and as the other branches of government continue to expect improved efficiencies, we need to continue to consider how we can best work together to ensure the future health of the judicial branch. Your participation in this conference underscores the importance of the work that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Vickrey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William C. Vickrey
Administrative Director of the Courts

WCV/KMT/bjw
Enclosures